

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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ARA/CAR - J. THYDEN

CAB - C. COLDREN

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R 111917Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EAIR, BF

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PAN AM SUSPENSION OF SERVICES

REF: A) NASSAU 394; B) NASSAU 374; C) NASSAU 355

1. DEPARTMENT HAS TRANSMITTED EMBASSY VIEWS TO CAB AND HAS REVIEWED POINTS RAISED IN REFTEL (B) AND IN GCOB NOTE TRANSMITTED REFTEL (C) WITH CAB STAFF WITH REGARD TO ADEQUACY OF AVAILABLE AIRLINE SERVICE TO BAHAMAS IF PENDING PAN AM REQUEST APPROVED. IT APPEARS THAT EXISTING THREE DAILY THROUGH FLIGHTS FROM NEW YORK TO NASSAU, AND 5 TO 9 (DEPENDING ON DAY) DAILY CONNECTING FLIGHTS WOULD OFFER SUFFICIENT CAPACITY TO SERVE BAHAMAS FROM NEW YORK AREA. FULL LISTING OF ALTERNATIVE SERVICE APPEARS PARA 2 BELOW.

2. THROUGH FLIGHTS: DELTA B-727 DAILY FLIGHTS, NEW YORK (JFK)-NASSAU-FREEPORT; DELTA B-727 DAILY FLIGHTS, BOSTON-NEWARK-FREEPORT-NASSAU; EASTERN B-727 DAILY FLIGHTS, NEW YORK (LA GUARDIA)-RALEIGH/DURHAM-ATLANTA-MIAMI-NASSAU.

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CONNECTING FLIGHTS: EASTERN/EASTERN, B-727 SIX FLIGHTS PER

WEEK, NEWARK-BALTIMORE-NASSAU; EASTERN/EASTERN, L-1011 DAILY FLIGHTS, JFK-MIAMI-NASSAU; NATIONAL/BAHAMASAIR, B-727/B11 SIX FLIGHTS PER WEEK, NEWARK-MIAMI-NASSAU;

NATIONAL/BAHAMASAIR, B-727/B11 DAILY FLIGHTS, LA GUARDIA-MIAMI-NASSAU; EASTERN/EASTERN B-727 DAILY FLIGHTS, LA GUARDIA-MIAMI-NASSAU; EASTERN/EASTERN, B-727 DAILY FLIGHT, JFK-MIAMI-NASSAU; DELTA/BAHAMASAIR, B-727/B11 DAILY FLIGHT, JFK-MIAMI-NASSAU; EASTERN/EASTERN B-727 SIX FLIGHTS PER WEEK, LA GUARDIA-MIAMI-NASSAU; EASTERN/EASTERN/BAHAMASAIR, L1011/B11 FROM FLIGHTS PER WEEK, LA GUARDIA-MIAMI-NASSAU.

3. WHEN CONSIDERING ALL OF THE ABOVE FLIGHTS, PAN AM'S SUSPENSION WOULD RESULT IN A LOSS OF APPROXIMATELY 14 PERCENT OF AVAILABLE PASSENGER SEATS TO BAHAMAS, NOT 46 PERCENT CITED BY BAHAMAS MINISTRY OF TOURISM. PAN AM HAS BEEN OPERATING AT SLIGHTLY OVER 50 PERCENT LOAD FACTOR AND CARRIED APPROXIMATELY 69,000 PASSENGERS BETWEEN NEW YORK AND BAHAMAS DURING 1975. IN DECEMBER 1975, DELTA FILLED 63 PERCENT OF ITS SEATS BETWEEN JFK AND NASSAU AND ONLY 42 PERCENT OF SEATS BETWEEN NEWARK AND NASSAU. THE LOAD FACTORS FOR FREEPORT WERE 48 PERCENT FROM JFK AND 56 PERCENT FROM NEWARK. ACCORDINGLY, THERE IS CONSIDERABLE EVIDENCE THAT SUFFICIENT CAPACITY EXISTS AT PRESENT TO HANDLE ALL PASSENGERS, EVEN IF SOME PASSENGERS DURING PEAK TOURIST SEASON MAY NOT BE ABLE TO OBTAIN NONSTOP NASSAU FLIGHTS. NORMALLY, THE AIRLINES MUST EXPERIENCE LOAD FACTORS IN THE AREA OF 70 PERCENT BEFORE ADDING ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT TO A ROUTE.

4. IN PREVIOUS EXCHANGES CONCERNING CIVIL AVIATION, GCOB HAS NEVER INVOKED POLITICAL ARGUMENTS, SUCH AS MILITARY FACILITIES, AND WE HOPE THAT SUCH LINKAGES WOULD BE AVOIDED IN FUTURE. IN ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH GCOB, EMBASSY SHOULD ENDEAVOR TO ISOLATE CIVAIR ISSUES FROM OTHER CONSIDERATIONS.

5. WITH REGARD TO PREVIOUS GCOB REQUESTS (PER NASSAU 90 AND PREVIOUS) FOR BILATERAL CIVAIR CONSULTATIONS, WE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTINUE TO BE WILLING TO MEET IN WASHINGTON WITH APPROPRIATE GCOB OFFICIALS FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON ANY MATTERS OF CONCERN OF EITHER PARTY AT A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME.

6. PAN AM HAS CONFIRMED REPORT CONTAINED REFTEL A THAT AIRLINE WILL OPERATE BAHAMAS FLIGHTS THROUGH APRIL 26 WHATEVER THE CAB DECISION. IF AUTHORIZATION TO SUSPEND

SERVICES IS NOT OBTAINED BY THAT DATE, PAN AM PLANS TO  
REDUCE ITS FLIGHTS TO ONE PER WEEK UNTIL SUCH TIME WHEN  
SUSPENSION IS APPROVED. KISSINGER

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